

A new species of *Gekko* found in Yakushima, one of the small island south of Kyushu.

by

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*Gekko yakuensis* n. sp. (Figs. 1, 2)

Type specimen : adult female JSC\*\*\* #522

Type Locality : Anbo, Yakushima Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan, collected on May 30, 1963.

Description : Head large, subtriangular in outline, rostral squarish, about twice as wide as high, bounded above by two small supranasals, and one small scale between supranasals; nostril surrounded by first supralabial, two postnasals, and supranasal; distance between nostril and eye nearly equal to the distance between eye and ear-opening; eye large, its diameter more than half the distance between eye and tip of snout; ear-opening small, somewhat slit-like; 12 or 13 supralabials; 9 or 10 infralabials; mental pentagonal, somewhat large, scarcely larger than the adjacent infralabials; four somewhat enlarged chin-shields on either side of jaw bordering lower labials; the two in contact with mental and with each other are longer than broad; behind these several polygonal smaller shields; head covered above with granules, those above labials rather elongate; body covered above with small granules and somewhat larger roundish, conical tubercles; a slight skin fold from axilla to groin; innerdigit with 10 lamellae, second with 10, third with 12, fourth with 12, fifth with 11; forelimbs somewhat larger and longer, toes broader towards tip than at base and tip; ten to fifteen broad undivided lamellae on underside of toes; first and second toes with 10; third with 13; fourth with 15; fifth with 14; lower surface of body except throat, covered with somewhat larger intricate scales; tail gradually tapering, not swollen at base, pointed at end, more than twenty somewhat deep transverse grooves on tail, each with transverse rows of scales; transverse row of scales on each annulation more regular than others; below, scales larger than above, the median paired series largest; three rows to each annulation; one large tubercle on each side of base of tail.

Color in life : Dorsal side of trunk dark gray, with dark black irregular transverse bands, belly with dark black spots; upperside of tail dark gray, with dark black irregular transverse bands, underside light gray with many dark brown spots.

Measurements (in mm) :

Museum	JSC	JSC	JSC	JSC
Number	#520	#521	#522	#523
Locality	Miyanoura	Miyanoura	Anbo	Miyanoura
Date	25/'64	25/'64	30/'63	1963
	VII	VII	V	
Collector	M. Ikeda	M. Ikeda	M. Matsui	M. Ikeda
Sex	♂	♀	♀	♂
Total length	98+	106	114+	135
Snout to vent	47	50	70	66
Vent to tip of tail	51+	56	44+	69
Snout to ear-opening	12	12	17	18
Snout to anterior border of eye	6	6	8	6

Diameter of eye	4	3.2	5	5
Ear-opening to posterior border of eye	4.2	4	6	6
Snout to groin	22	23	31	31
Axilla to groin	21	21	30	27
Greatest width of body	10	10	15	12
Greatest width of head	10	10.5	14	14
Length of head	8	8.5	12	11
Forelimb, from axilla	14	14	23	21
Hindlimb, from groin	23	24	34	34
Longest toe	5	5.2	6	5
Supralabials	12	12	12,13	12
Infralabials	13	12	9,10	11
Femoral pores	5	—	—	6

Remarks: When the Kyoto Heian High school conducted its biological survey of Yakushima, one of the members of the team noted the presence a large *Gekko* different from the common *Gekko japonicus* (DUMERIL et BIBRON). In 1963, one of the authors, T. Matsui, surveyed Yakushima Island and collected one female and observed several other individuals in a forest at 100-150 m above sealevel, along the sea coast. Also he obtained 3 alcoholic preserved specimens from Moriaki Ikeda, Yakushima High School.

The present species somewhat resembles *Gekko tawaensis* Okada in outline but differs from it by the presence of 250-300 granulated minute scales on the head and trunk and a scattering of distinct large conical scales. The dorsal surface of tail is covered with minute, homogeneous scales and with 20 or more somewhat deep transverse grooves; the median two scales of the grooves are larger than the others, and are intermingled with a few small scales.

The present new species also differs from *Gekko japonicus* in size of body, which is usually bigger than that of *japonicus* measuring 66-70 mm or more.

The present species is always found in the forest away from populated areas. It seems to have a different territory than *Gekko japonicus*.

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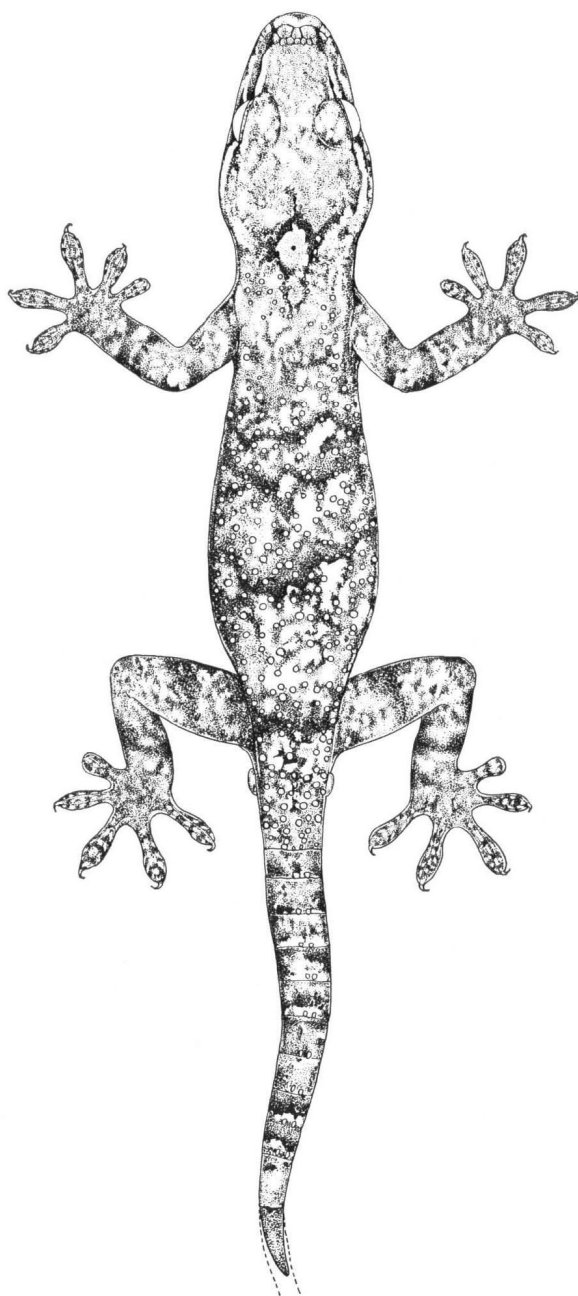


Fig. 1. *Gekko yakuensis* n. sp.

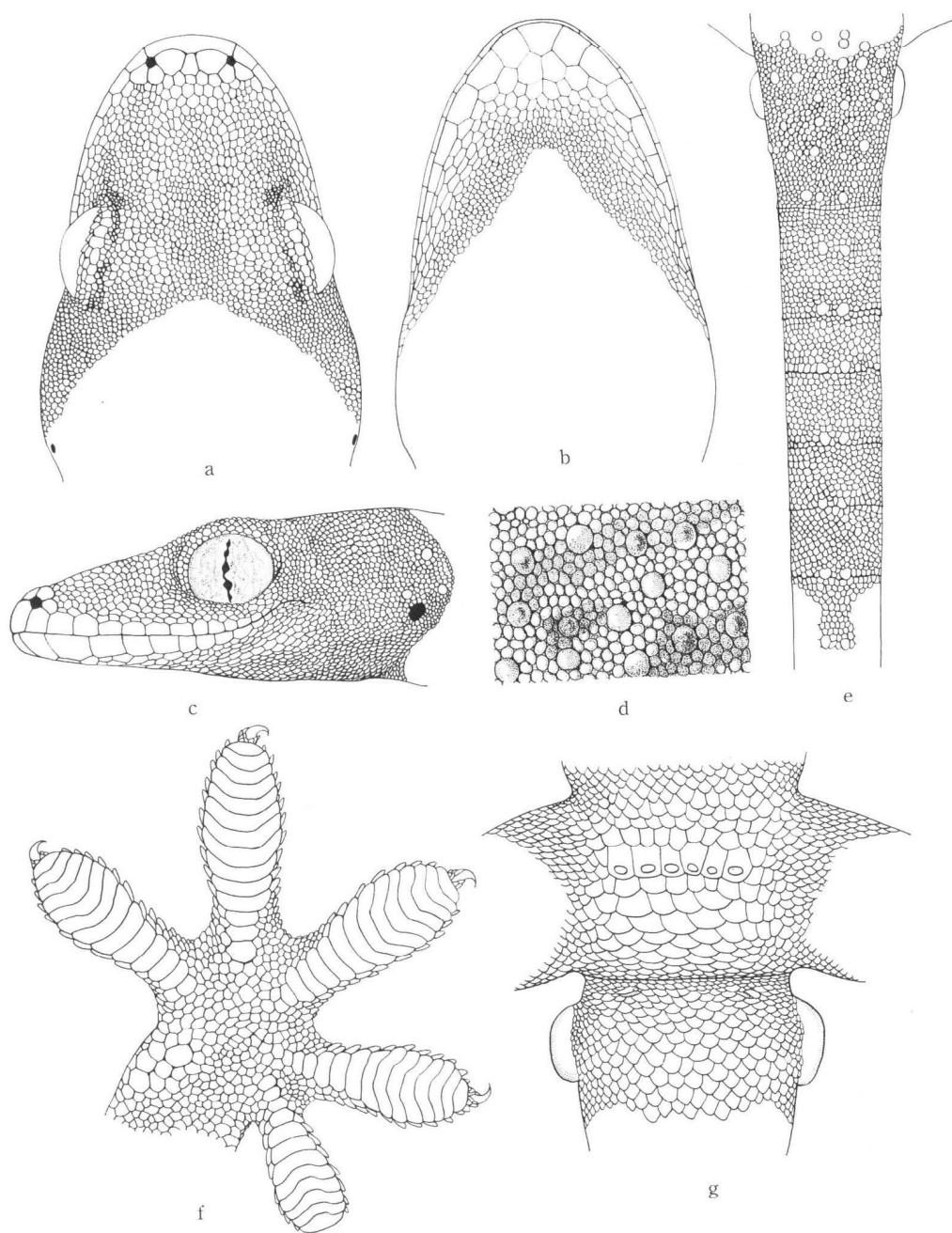


Fig. 2. *Gekko yakuensis* n. sp. from Anbō, Yakushima, Kagoshima prefecture, Kyushu.

a. Dorsal view of head  
c. Lateral view of head  
e. Dorsal view of tail  
g. Underside of anal region

b. Ventral view of head  
d. A piece of dorsal scales  
f. Underside of hand